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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1034
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RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS COTONOU 000309

PARIS FOR ARS (DWINTON)
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/PD (ANYASO, TITUS, LISEBY), AF/W (VHARPER)

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OEXC](#) [KPAO](#) [SCUL](#) [BN](#)

SUBJECT: Media Reaction: "Beninese media reacts to President Barack Obama's speech in Ghana"

¶1. Summary: The Beninese media reacted extensively and positively to President Obama's speech in Ghana, a speech that they found to be a source of inspiration for Africa. The speech generated several print articles, editorials and comments in the leading print media, with a circulation of 2,500 for each daily. End summary.

¶2. On July 13, the right-of-center independent daily L'Autre Quotidien, carried a lengthy editorial titled "Ghana: President Barack Obama's African hope."
The editorial began with a key excerpt from President Obama's speech referring to the statement he made that "the future of Africa belongs to Africans themselves." The editorial wanted to reiterate what the author viewed as a simple concept: How could Africans not understand that the future of the continent would be the result of their own efforts? In his opinion, "Decades after their countries became independent, many African heads of State behaved like servers of former colonial Masters, and continued to enrich foreign factories." ... "Since the end of the eighties marked by the national conferences and democratically elected governments, the urgency of satisfying the needs of the populations did not take place; rather, this led to fruitless nationalism." ...
Ghana took a different path, according to this author who stated that, "Methodically, steadily and quietly, Ghana is putting together all the ingredients needed for its economic take off." The author, who had nothing but praise for President Obama's analysis of the situation, agreed that "It is very easy to point a finger to others, accusing them to be responsible for the problems of Africa, but the Western countries were not responsible for the destruction of Zimbabwe's economy during the last decade." ... "There was brutality in Kenya and in Zimbabwe: no one wants to live in a society where the rule of law gives way to brutality and corruption."

¶3. In the lead up to the historical speech in Ghana, all major print media shared in the country-wide euphoria of President Obama's first trip to sub-Saharan Africa. The most prominent headlines include:

L'Autre Quotidien:
"Africa is not isolated from world affairs."

Le Telegramme:
"In Ghana, Obama calls on Africa to take care of itself."

La Nouvelle Tribune:
"In Ghana, Obama calls on Africans to take their destiny into their hands."

La Presse du Jour:
"As part of the activities scheduled to mark President Obama's visit to Ghana, the American Cultural Center in Cotonou showed the French documentary titled "Obama, l'Homme Qu'on n'Attendait Pas."

Boustani